

May 3, 1983

LB 610

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Move the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members, a question for Senator Beutler. I am just hearing what you are trying to do and I believe what this is allowing to have happen is allowing the Highway Department to lease out for concession purposes or for some kind of gift shops or something like that. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: And you'd just like to see that not done at all?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Well, members of the body, I was just trying to think of whether that would be a good idea or not for myself and I was remembering a time that I took a trip from Omaha down to Kansas City and of course traveling down I-29 you go by rest stops there and I noticed...we did stop at a rest stop area and I believe it was on the Iowa interstate portion of I-29 and certainly I would not be in favor of having a big commercial development there with McDonald's or Stuckey's or whatever but my family and I were quite impressed with the gift shop that was there. I believe it was run by the state as part of their tourism area and they had some gifts there that were made by people that were local to the state, local areas, and they had a lot of maps and they had a hospitality area where they served coffee. They had some vending machines there that you could get more than just stop at the rest area and it was done in a very tasteful manner, done very architecturally residential, very conducive to a park setting and I thought that it did nothing but enhance my impression of what Iowa is doing for tourism. I'm not sure that we would want to outlaw that completely. I would not be in any way, shape or form in favor of turning things into commercial attractions but I'm not sure that you would have to strike this if in the opinion of the Department of Roads that this could enhance our image to tourism and our public relations to the people of the state. I'm not sure I could support this.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins is next but may I introduce a guest under the South balcony, Mr. Mike Ough who is Superintendent of the Schools at Kenesaw, Nebraska. Would you